

Pratt County HHW Case Study

Pratt County Info

- Population of 10,000 plus
- Located 50 Miles South of Great Bend
- Small Arid Landfill
- HHW hub for 6 counties



The only city in Kansas with Hot and Cold water towers

The Incident

Improper disposal of HHW into
the County Landfill

Date of the Incident

Around the 1st of November 2004

Where Did It Come From?

- Pratt County HHW Facility



Inside the HHW facility







What Happened?

- Employees from the HHW facility transported approximately 10 drums of HHW to the landfill site.
- The materials were neither weighed nor screened at the landfill.
- The drums were spread over an area, crushed and covered.

What Was Disposed Of?

- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Volatile Organic Compounds
- Acids, Bases, and Neutrals
- Surfactants
- Metals

How was the incident discovered?

- An employee of the HHW facility sent an e-mail to KDHE informing them of the disposal.

The Investigation

- KDHE personnel arrived in Pratt to interview the people involved.
- KDHE concluded that there was in fact an improper disposal.
- KDHE informed the County Commissioners of the incident.

Pratt County's Response

- Acquired the services of an environmental consulting firm.
- Ceased using the area surrounding the disposal area in question.
- Temporarily closed the HHW facility.
- Made Personnel and Management Changes

Reasons for the Incident

- Lack of proper training
- Personnel problems
- Lack of communications
- Possible sabotage
- Unknown

The Operations Plan

- Isolate and restrict the suspect disposal area.
- Confirm the drum locations by excavation.
- Determine if soil contamination has occurred.
- Remove HHW that could threaten groundwater into lined roll offs.
- Lab test wastes for contamination.
- Off site disposal of contaminated wastes.

The Excavation



The first scoop





The Second Day



Treated Grain



Suspect HHW Material







Placing contaminated waste into roll off



De-contamination area



The testing crew



Covering and re-compacting

The Testing

- Samples were taken from the excavation.
- Preliminary testing was done on site.
- Samples were logged and packed.
- Samples were sent to a lab in Florida.
- Waited for the results..

The Disposal

- Three roll offs were taken to Barton Co. Landfill
- Two roll offs were taken to the incinerator at Kimball Nebraska.

The Financial Burden

■ Allegations Evaluation	\$ 7,004.20
■ Operations Plan Addendum	\$ 750.00
■ HHW Inventory	\$ 3,218.08
■ L.F. Staff Training	\$ 1,018.10
■ Work Plan Preparation	\$ 2,500.00
■ Respond to Comments	\$ 762.00
■ HHW Operation Support	\$ 2,900.07
■ Training of HHW Staff	\$ 255.00
■ Excavation and Disposal	\$67,271.52
■ Legal and Miscellaneous	\$15,000.00
■ TOTALS:	<u>\$100,687.97</u>

The Consequences

- Possible closure of the landfill
- Expanded water testing parameters
- Financially devastating to the county